

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 116267
ORIGIN PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SS-15 ARA-10
NSCE-00 SSO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-10
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INRE-00 ACDA-12 /127 R

DRAFTED BY PM - MR. ARIETTI:BJ
APPROVED BY PM - JKAHAN
S/ MR. RAMBERG
A/RA - MR. CLEVELAND
EUR/RPM - MR. BRECKON
CDA - MR.DALEY
NSC: . -) O - MR. HEL
-----036508 061726Z /42

O R 061625Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T STATE 116267

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM

SUBJECT: UNSSOD: NUCLEAR ACCIDENTS PROPOSAL

1. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO APPROACH FOREIGN OFFICE URGENTLY
AND MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

2. US IS CONSIDERING WHETHER IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO PROPOSE
AT THE SSOD A MULTILATERAL NUCLEAR ACCIDENTS AGREEMENT.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 116267

3. SUCH A PROPOSAL WOULD CALL ON ALL NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATES
TO NEGOTIATE A MULTILATERAL AGREEMENT FOR RECIPROCAL
REPORTING IN THE EVENT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS-RELATED ACCIDENTS,
WITH THE ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT THAT REPORTS FROM THE
NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATES ALSO GO TO THE UN TO BE SHARED WITH
NON-NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATES.

4. AN AGREEMENT ALONG THESE LINES WOULD BE INTENDED TO AVOID MISPERCEPTIONS AND INCREASE CERTAINTY AND STABILITY IN A CRISIS. MOREOVER, THE PROPOSAL WOULD MULTILATERALIZE THE CURRENT SITUATION, IN WHICH THE US, UK, AND FRANCE EACH HAVE SEPARATE BILATERAL ACCIDENTS AGREEMENTS WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

5. THE DETAILED CONTENT OF THE AGREEMENT WOULD BE A MATTER

FOR NEGOTIATION, THOUGH THE US-SOVIET ACCIDENTS AGREEMENT COULD PROVIDE A USEFUL PRECEDENT FOR THE OCCASIONS IN WHICH REPORTS WOULD BE REQUIRED. THIS AGREEMENT, INTER ALIA, PROVIDES THAT THE US AND SOVIET UNION WILL NOTIFY EACH OTHER

-- IMMEDIATELY IN THE EVENT OF AN INCIDENT INVOLVING A POSSIBLE DETONATION OF A NUCLEAR WEAPON WHICH COULD RISK NUCLEAR WAR;

-- IMMEDIATELY IF MISSILE WARNING SYSTEMS DETECT UNIDENTIFIED OBJECTS, OR IF WARNING SYSTEMS OR RELATED COMMUNICATIONS ARE INTERFERED WITH;

-- IN ADVANCE OF PLANNED MISSILE LAUNCHES BEYOND THE NATIONAL TERRITORY IN THE DIRECTION OF THE OTHER PARTY.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 116267

6. UNDER OUR PROPOSAL, ONLY NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATES WOULD BE SIGNATORIES. HOWEVER, EACH SIGNATORY WOULD AGREE TO MAKE REPORTS, IN THE CASE OF ACCIDENTS, TO THE UN SECRETARIAT.

7. AN IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION IN A FINAL US DECISION IS THE REACTION OF THE PRC. WE ARE CONCERNED THAT THE PRC MAY NOT BE WILLING TO JOIN IN SUCH A NEGOTIATION, SINCE IT WOULD INVOLVE THEM WITH THE SOVIETS IN THIS MULTILATERAL AGREEMENT, AND IN VIEW OF GENERAL PRC POSTURE OF DISDAIN FOR ARMS CONTROL EFFORTS.

8. WE ARE CONCERNED THAT PRC MIGHT SEE US PROPOSAL OF THIS IDEA AS PART OF A US-SOVIET EFFORT TO EMBARRASS THEM. WE DO NOT WISH AT THIS TIME TO APPROACH PEKING OURSELVES ON THIS QUESTION.

9. WE THEREFORE REQUEST THAT, IF THE UK ITSELF BELIEVES SUCH AN INITIATIVE WILL HAVE MERIT, THE UK SOUND OUT PRC REACTION TO THIS IDEA WHILE NOT REPORT NOT INDICATING THAT IT IS A US INITIATIVE.

10. US CONSIDERATION OF THIS AND OTHER POSSIBLE SSOD
INITIATIVES IS REACHING THE DECISION STAGE. THEREFORE, IF
UK IS WILLING TO APPROACH PRC ON THIS QUESTION WE REQUEST
THAT THIS BE DONE URGENTLY AND UK INFORM US OF PRC VIEWS.
CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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